

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 19, 1997 LB 264

have brought it up if Senator Warner hadn't brought it up, and I've never brought it up until this day. And it's not to condemn Senator Wesely, but to indicate that those were some very tearing, wrenching discussions, arguments, debates, controversies. It was one of those bills where I sharpened the skills that I developed in using the rules and every other method to try to stop a very bad bill that was being rammed through this Legislature. Senators had been intimidated, very openly, very brazenly, very blatantly, and I was hoping that the bill would not pass, not just to defeat that bill, but to save the Legislature's integrity. I offered satirical amendments, did everything I could, and failed. What I want to say this morning tailgates on what Senator Wesely suggested. I have never in the time that I've been in the Legislature seen somebody err as egregiously as Senator Wesely, based on his principles, did on that vote. But I have also not seen anybody work so assiduously to undo the harm which that vote made possible in this state. And I just want to suggest that it is not a bad thing when a senator recognizes an error to try to rectify the harm, which in this case Senator Wesely alone could never do. I wouldn't expect him to. I want to mention that a very new senator had changed a position after listening to the debate on the floor, and the other day somebody talked about how rapidly he changed his position. Rather than being critical, I would say it just indicated that he is a fast study. He saw the facts, decided that he was on the wrong side of the issue, and changed his mind and publicly acknowledged it. That is not a trait to be abhorred or to be condemned. I now am able to sweep under the rug, not of forgetfulness, but of forgiveness, what Senator Wesely did on that fateful and tragic day. Senator Wesely, that day is more tragic than when that fellow got lost in the subway tunnels and will never return. You have come back to the fold, you have returned to the teachings, and for that I am very grateful. Since Senator Wesely is not going to oppose advancement of the bill, I won't oppose it, but I'm able to vote...I'm unable to vote for it.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad. I'm sorry. While we're waiting for Senator Maurstad to find his way to the mike, Mr. Clerk, do you have any...?

CLERK: The Agriculture Committee, Mr. President, will meet now